

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
EASTERN DIVISION

ANNA KATHERINE PICKETT

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:18-cv-214-KS-JCG

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

ORDER

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 16th day of March, 2021, following a meeting of the Board of Judges of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Chief Judge Danial P. Jordan entered Administrative Order 3:40-mc-0011. Said Order addressed the resumption of jury trials in the Southern District of Mississippi beginning in April of 2021.

While the Order largely addresses criminal jury trials, some civil trials are allowed to proceed. If the presiding Judge, considering all of the circumstances, finds that no criminal trials are being delayed in a particular division and that adequate resources and space are available and that the conducting of a civil trial will not interfere with or remove resources from conflicting criminal trials, then the presiding Judge has the authority to order the civil trial to proceed.

The undersigned Judge, having considered the circumstances, affirmatively finds that there is one criminal trial set in the Eastern Division (Hattiesburg) for the first week in April, and it is going forward. The undersigned also finds that the second, third and fourth weeks in April are available on the Court's calendar, that courtroom space is available, and that there are adequate resources for conducting civil trials. The Court further recognizes that criminal trials

take precedence over civil trials in most instances, and no criminal trial is being delayed in the Eastern Division by proceeding with civil trials. The undersigned has further assessed the circumstances of the Courthouse in Hattiesburg and the safety measures that have been implemented and used now for many months. The undersigned is further familiar with the preparations and training that have been implemented by the Clerk's Office preparing staff for resumption of jury trials. Further, the undersigned Judge has experience with post COVID trials and the necessity to ensure the safety of litigants, jurors, staff, and the public.

Now, therefore, the undersigned having fully evaluated the situation and the fact that the civil trial herein has been delayed for many months because of the COVID situation and further recognizing that there is no reason for not proceeding and giving the litigants their day in Court finds that the above styled case which is set on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Voir dire will be conducted of one panel, and either seven or eight jurors will be seated for the trial of the case. Safety protocols as set forth in case number 2:19-cr-53-[87]KS-MTP, and the Court's COVID-19 Jury Resumption Plan (see Court's website) will be practiced during the trial of the above styled case. The attorneys are instructed to familiarize themselves with the requirements and comply with same.

SO ORDERED this the 19th day of March, 2021.

s/Keith Starrett
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE